Department as a whole had not done any useful work and had not produced any tangible result. All its activities were merely experimental. The Department at this rate of working was not of any use to the public and could be abolished. The Government Museum was established with the object of developing arts and science. But the institution was not working up to this ideal. The two officers in the institution were not qualified in science. If a duly qualified officer be appointed there one of the two places could be abolished. The Development Departments could be amalgamated and placed under one officer. The pay of the Chief Engineer could be reduced and there was no need for a Personal Assistant and a Superintendent in his office. All unnecessary appointments should be abolished and the pay of all officers drawing above Rs. 100 should be reduced by a certain percentage. The amount thus saved should be utilised for enhancing the pay of he officers of the lower ranks.

Appointments should not be made on a communal basis. Qualified and capable persons should alone be appointed in the public service. And for purposes of recruitment to the public service, a competitive examination should be instituted.

The Public Service Committee to be constituted should be asked to enquire into the corruption prevalent among officers.

Lastly, the newspapers of the State should be allowed the freedom f criticism of officers in the public service by repealing the Newspapers Regulation.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Corruption in public service, Mr. Gopala Panikkar, must be stamped out; but it can be done only on definite evidence. It is no good making indefinite charges. Every man must be tried and convicted on proper evidence. When specific complaints are made, enquiries are held; and if the evidence is good enough, the men are punished.

Appointments are not made on mere seniority. They are made on seniority combined with merit.

The suggestions to reduce the number of appointments and to raise the pay in the subordinate service deserves very serious consideration.

The question of recruitment is being considered, as you know by a committee; and I hope its report will soon be ready.

171. Public Service.

MR. K. AIYAPPAN (*Shertallai taluk, Group I*) spoke about the need for giving due representation to all classes of the subjects of the State in the public service. The question of representation in publice service was a long-standing and vexed one and no time should be lost in solving this problem to the satisfaction and contentment of all. In order to remove the inequalities that certain backward communities were suffering from in the matter of recruitment to the public service, Government had issued circulars to all heads of departments to give preference to unrepresented and backward communities in filling up new vacancies

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provided the persons concerned had the necessary qualifications. But it was regrettable to find that these instructions were not acted upon by the heads of departments, with the result that the condition of the backward communities remained the same as before. In order to ascertain whether heads of departments followed the circular instructions issued by the Government and to bring to the notice of Government the grievances of the communities concerned in the matter of appointments made by heads of departments, it should be ordered that half-yearly statements of appointments made by them should be published in the *Gazette*. This would enable the representatives of the people to bring to light the defects in the appointments and get them remedied.

The Stationary Magistrates were ordinarily recruited from the clerical ranks of the Secretariat and other offices. Magistrates should be recruited from among the vakils also. This would improve the tone of the Magistracy. Magistrates should also be promoted as Munsiffs.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Your suggestions, Mr. Aiyappan, will be considered when we get the report of the Recruitment Committee.

The publication of statements, by caste, of appointments made was refused last year but we are considering that question again.

172. Public service.

MR. EIPE VARGHESE (*Muvattupuzha taluk*) spoke about the need for due representation of non-Hindus and non-caste Hindus in the public service. He said that for certain special reasons which no longer existed, appointments in the public service were reserved, as it were, to members of certain communities. With the advancement of education and civic consciousness, others also began to realise their position and claim due representation in the public service. It was a well known fact that the progress of Indian States was hampered by communal bickerings. The peace and prosperity of every State depended on a satisfactory solution of this vexed problem of communal claims for public service.

The communities that suffered inequality of treatment in the public service were non-caste Hindus, Christians and Mahomedans. The vagaries in regard to appointments in the public service had been brought to the notice of the Government through the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council. The appointments in the higher ranks had become a monopoly, as it were, to certain communities. In the Revenue Department, 48 of the 58 important appointments were held by caste-Hindus. Of the 400 and odd Provertikars, only 5 were Christians. The Provertikar was an important local officer of the *pâkuthi* and in him were vested certain important responsibilities such as the preparation of the electoral roll and enquiry into applications for erecting places of public worship. There was no Christian among the Dewan Peishkars or Division Assistants. The member therefore requested that in the vacancy caused by the appointment of a Division Assistant as Secretary to Government a Christian might be appointed.

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